



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR - 5 2005

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable James Jeffords
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Jeffords:

Thank you for your letter of March 17th following our meeting to discuss my nomination to serve as EPA Administrator. I appreciated your courtesy during a very busy time in the Senate's schedule.

With respect to your request for technical comparisons of various multi-pollutant legislative approaches, I remain willing to provide modeling information that could be useful as the Committee continues to consider legislation to amend the Clean Air Act. As you know, I had similar discussions with Senator Carper, Senator Voinovich, and Chairman Inhofe before the Easter recess. I continue to believe that the best approach would be for the leadership of the Committee to agree on the parameters of the request to the Agency. I am hopeful that as you and your colleagues return to Washington, we can continue to work with you and your staffs to provide timely information to facilitate your consideration of the various Clear Skies proposals.

With respect to the National Academy of Sciences' study on the health and environmental effects of the New Source Review program, I understand your comments concerning the importance of this study. We have been working closely with the NAS for well over a year to support their ongoing study of the NSR reforms. As you know, the Academy issued at the end of last year an interim report that provides a detailed explanation of their efforts to date and expectations with regard to the work that remains. We expect the NAS to complete their final report later this year. We plan to continue to support NAS in this effort.

Finally, with respect to your questions concerning previous requests, I have asked my staff to provide an update on the status of our response. Again, thank you for your interest and courtesy. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. L. Johnson", is written over the typed name.

Stephen L. Johnson
Acting Administrator